

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 and 13-51 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,389,990. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner's clarification of this rejection is appreciated. The Examiner is interpreting the "stiffening member" claimed in the '990 patent as the "reinforcement member" claimed in the present patent application. In the '990 patent, the "stiffening member" is mounted to the ribs of a deck of the pallet, such that box beam sections are formed by the deck, the ribs and the stiffening member. In contrast, in the present claims, the box beam sections are formed between upper and lower surfaces (or between the second outer member and the second intermediate member in claim 1, etc), but the "reinforcement members" are between the upper and lower surfaces (or between the second outer member and the second intermediate member, etc). Thus, in the present claims, the reinforcement members are claimed in addition to the box beam sections that are claimed in the '990 patent. None of the claims in the '990 patent recite a reinforcement member in addition to the box beam sections.

CONCLUSION

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 50-1984 in the amount of \$110 for a one-month extension. If any additional fees or extensions are due, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1984.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____



Konstantine J. Diamond, Reg. No. 39,657
4010 E. 26th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90023
Telephone: 323-262-5145
Facsimile: 323-269-8506

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